REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed June 30, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 6, 8 – 11, 13, 15 and 17 - 20 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 17, and has canceled claims 7, 12, 14 and 16 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 7, 12, 14 and 16 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 3, 6 – 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 – 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Wakai*. With respect to claims 7 and 16, Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In this regard, *Wakai* generally involves an apparatus and method for controlling execution of a print job. Specifically, *Wakai* discloses:

> A client generates a request in accordance with an operation initiated by a user, and *transmits the request to a server* for a local apparatus or to another apparatus. *The server interprets the received request, adds a job to a database,* and generates and transmits operation screen information to the client. *Then, a daemon monitors the database, and detects and performs an executable job.* Furthermore, when the local apparatus is designated to display a job list, to select a job therefrom and to print it, the local apparatus processes the job. When another apparatus is designated to process a job, the job is transmitted to that apparatus. When the transmission source of the received job

matches a transmission source that has been registered, the execution process is inhibited. The time for executing a selected job is designated and, so that the selected job will be executed at that time, is stored with the job.

(*Wakai* at Abstract). (Emphasis added).

Additionally, *Wakai* discloses:

> When a user 101 specifically operates the client component 102, the client component 102 transmits to the server 103 a request that corresponds to the operation. ***The server 103 interprets the received request, and adds or deletes a job to or from a database 104, or acquires data from the database 104.*** As a result, a response is prepared in HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language), as needed, and is transmitted to the client component 102. The client component 102 displays the received HTML data and allows the user 101 to perform additional device manipulations.

> ***A daemon module 105 monitors the job stored in the database 104, and performs the processing (printing, transmission or notification) that corresponds to the job for which the execution condition is satisfied.***

(*Wakai* at column 10, lines 33 - 46). (Emphasis added).

Based on the representative teachings of *Wakai* above, it is clear that *Wakai* involves transmitting information from a client regardless of whether or not the print job is to be printed immediately. That is, the print job is transmitted from the client and is stored in a database until printing is scheduled. This is in direct contrast to the limitations recited in Applicant's claims.

In this regard, Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite:

> 1.   A method for print scheduling, comprising:
>   providing, at a user workstation, information to be printed as a print job;
>   receiving a user input, at the user workstation, identifying a time for printing the print job; and
>   ***transmitting the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 1. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* does not teach or

otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2, 3 and 6 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 8, Applicant has amended that claim to recite:

> 8. A print scheduling system comprising:
> an input interface operative on a user workstation for receiving user input identifying a time for printing a print job; and
> *a processor of the workstation that is programmed to initiate transmission of the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input.*

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 8. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 10 and 11 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 8, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 13, Applicant has amended that claim to recite:

> 13. A print scheduling system comprising:
> means for receiving, at a user workstation, a user input identifying a time for printing a print job; and
> *means for initiating transmission of the print job from the user workstation to a printer at a time corresponding to the time identified by the user input.*

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 13. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 13. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

Since claim 15 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 13, Applicant respectfully asserts that this claim also is in condition for allowance. Additionally, this claim recites other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 17, Applicant has amended that claim to recite:

> 17.   A computer readable medium having stored thereon logic comprising:
> determination logic for determining if a current time
> corresponds to a user-determined time for printing a print job; and
> ***initiation logic for initiating the transmission of the print job
> from a user workstation to a printer in response to the determination
> logic determining that the current time corresponds to the user-
> determined time.***

(Emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 17. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that *Wakai* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 17. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 19 and 20 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 17, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 4, 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wakai* in view of *Zhang*. The Office Action also indicates that claims 5, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wakai* in view of *Doi*. With respect to claims 12 and 14, Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

In this regard, Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering the claims unpatentable. In particular, Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claims 1, 8 and 17 as lacking in *Wakai*. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claims 1, 8 and 17 are in condition for allowance.

Since claims 4 and 5 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, claim 9 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 8, and claim 18 is a dependent claim that incorporates all the features/limitations of claim 17, Applicant respectfully asserts that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.
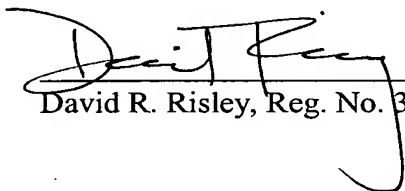
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.
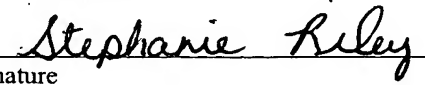
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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